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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Letter dated 14 January 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

On 19 July 2007, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined your report on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/391). Following its meeting of 18 September 2007, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on parties to the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/AC.51/2007/17).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, I am entrusted, in my capacity as the President of the Council, to remind you of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to protect children, as set out in Council resolution 1756 (2007), as well as of the letter from the Chairman of the Working Group dated 2 November 2006 reiterating the responsibility of MONUC to cooperate with national and international efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of crimes committed against children in situations of armed conflict, specifically Laurent Nkunda.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for the measures described in his letter to the Chairman of the Working Group dated 15 December 2006, as well as for MONUC support for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through technical assistance for the *auditeurs militaires* in bringing an end to impunity for violations and abuses committed against children by military forces or armed groups present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a follow-up to the conclusions of the Working Group on parties to the armed conflict of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of 8 September 2006 (see S/2006/724).

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the lack of financial resources allocated to reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to invite you to call upon the international community to increase funding for such programmes.

(*Signed*) Giadalla A. **Ettalhi**
President of the Security Council

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Letter dated 14 January 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations

On 19 July 2007, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/391). Following its meeting of 18 September 2007, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on parties to the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/AC.51/2007/17).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, I am entrusted, in my capacity as the President of the Council, to welcome the cooperation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the Working Group and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as well as the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to promote the rights of children in situations of armed conflict, in particular its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocols.

I also take note of the ongoing cooperation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the International Criminal Court in its independent investigations aimed at ensuring accountability for the perpetrators of war crimes against children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I strongly urge the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

(a) To address the issue of impunity for perpetrators of violations and abuses committed against children, with the assistance of forces of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to act upon the arrest warrants for Laurent Nkunda, to confirm the charges against former Mai-Mai commander Kynugu Mutanga, known as Gédéon, and to rearrest Jean-Pierre Biyoyo, former commander of the armed group Mudundu 40;

(b) To prosecute as a matter of priority other persons responsible for crimes committed against children;

(c) To identify, together with the World Bank and the main donors, financial mechanisms to complete the process of identification, verification and separation of

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children who are among the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), non-integrated forces and dissident or non-eligible armed groups, with a view to reaching children in a way that is distinct from the adult-oriented national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme;

(d) To facilitate, together with FARDC, the work of child protection partners in separating children from the mixed brigades and taking the necessary measures against the commanders (and those at the lower level of command) who continue to obstruct the separation of children;

(e) To take specific care, in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, of girls exploited by armed forces and groups, as well as of children born of rape, including through recognition of their citizenship.

Finally, I invite the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to inform the Security Council of the follow-up given to the above requests.

(*Signed*) Giadalla A. **Ettalhi**
President of the Security Council

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Letter dated 14 January 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

On 19 July 2007, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/391). Following its meeting of 18 September 2007, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on parties to the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/AC.51/2007/17).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, I am entrusted, in my capacity as the President of the Council, to acknowledge receipt of the letter from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations dated 9 February 2007 (S/2007/79) in response to the letter from the President of the Council dated 25 January 2007.

I also welcome the cooperation of the Government of Rwanda with the Working Group in fighting crimes and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as its efforts to work with United Nations agencies in addressing the issue of the protection of these children.

Finally, I invite the Government of Rwanda to help further in addressing the issue of the protection of children in a manner consistent with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

(*Signed*) Giadalla A. **Ettalhi**
President of the Security Council

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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Letter dated 14 January 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 19 July 2007, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined the report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/391). Following its meeting of 18 September 2007, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on parties to the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/AC.51/2007/17).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, I am entrusted, in my capacity as the President of the Council, to inform you of the grave concern of the Working Group regarding the repeated violations of Council resolutions on children and armed conflict by the persons named in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General.

(*Signed*) Giadalla A. **Ettalhi**
President of the Security Council

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